



MassWildlife

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

DTE-39
Attachment D

BG

Wayne F. MacCallum, Director

9 January 2004

Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Attention: MEPA Office
William Gage, EOE No. 13165
251 Causeway St., Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2004

MEPA

Project Name: King Street Substation Improvements and 23kV Electric Line Extension Project
Proponent: Massachusetts Electric Company
Location: King Street to Mill Street, Georgetown and Groveland, MA
Document Reviewed: King Street Substation Improvements and 23kV Electric Line Extension Project
ENF
NHESP File Number: 03-12719

Dear Secretary Roy Herzfelder,

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife has reviewed the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the King Street Substation Improvements and 23kV Electric Line Extension Project (dated 12/12/03), and would like to offer the following comments regarding impacts to state-protected rare species.

As noted in the ENF (page 7) the project site is located within Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife (WH 7) and Priority Habitat of Rare Species (PH 17) (*Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas, 11th Edition*). Based on a review of the information that was provided in two Notices of Intent submitted by the applicant, the ENF, and the information that is currently contained in our database, the NHESP has determined that this project occurs within resource areas that are actual habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species. It is the opinion of the NHESP that installation of some of the proposed utility poles, and associated creation of new unpaved access roads has the potential to adversely affect the actual wetland habitat of rare wildlife (310 CMR 10.00) and result in the prohibited "take" of state-protected species (321 CMR 10.00).

As indicated in the ENF (page 7), the applicant is working with a wildlife and rare species consultant to address rare species permitting issues associated with the project. The consultant has submitted a Rare Species Wildlife Habitat Assessment (dated 12/30/2003) to the NHESP for review. In addition, Attachment C of the ENF contains proposed "Protective Measures for Rare Species."

The NHESP recommends that the applicant develop a detailed work plan designed to minimize potential impacts to rare species and their habitat, focusing particular attention on the important habitat areas identified by the applicant's wildlife consultant. Careful attention should be given to the siting of poles and access roads to avoid rare salamander breeding and nesting microhabitats. In addition, the work plan should include restrictions on the timing of work in sensitive habitats, to avoid work during the active period for rare turtles and salamanders. Development

www.masswildlife.org

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Field Headquarters, One Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581 (508) 792-7270 Fax (508) 792-7275

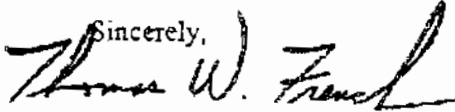
An Agency of the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement

EOEA File No. 1316S, Page 2

of such a work plan will ensure that the project is implemented subject to conditions protective of rare species and their habitat.

Please contact Jon Regosin, Ph.D. at (508) 792-7270, ext. 316 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. French, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

cc: Paul Richards, MA Electric Company
Timothy Sullivan, Earth Tech, Inc.
Bryan Windmiller & Dan Wells, Hyla Ecological Services
Georgetown Conservation Commission
Groveland Conservation Commission
DEP Northeast Regional Office, Wetlands Section
file